



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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CONTACT: RANDY HARRIS
615-267-6252 (OFFICE)
615-517-0984 (CELL)

NATIONAL GUARD EXERCISES JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER

SMYRNA - "The Tennessee National Guard is trained, ready and well equipped to assist in the event of a state emergency," Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, the state's Adjutant General, said today. "Although the Tennessee Guard has deployed more than 11,200 Soldiers and Airmen since 9/11, and left more than 250 million dollars worth of equipment in Iraq, the Department of Defense has a plan to replace that equipment and they are following through with that plan. The shortages we are experiencing will not degrade our response to an emergency in Tennessee."

Many of the National Guard response procedures are being put to the test this week at the Volunteer Training Center in Smyrna. The Joint Force Headquarters Operations Center will coordinate National Guard personnel, logistics, equipment and communications in the event of a Tennessee emergency.

The Joint Operations Center (JOC) was activated Tuesday in conjunction with the Tennessee Emergency Management's Tennessee Catastrophic (TNCAT) exercise, being conducted in West Tennessee through Thursday.

"This exercise gives us the opportunity to test both our communications and our response procedures in the event of an actual disaster," said Col. Isaac Osborne, Joint Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Guard.

Also a player in the exercise is United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). USNORTHCOM was established Oct. 1, 2002, to provide command and control of Department of Defense Homeland Defense efforts and to coordinate defense support of civil authorities.

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PO BOX 41502
NASHVILLE, TN 37204
615.313.3001